UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court

Rome, Italy
15 June-17 July 1998

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.183/INF.7
4 July 1998

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED TO ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTICIPATING STATES

Dear Colleagues

We have now reached the last stage of our five-week Conference. I recognize that you have all been working day and night and during weekends in every way you can to accomplish the task that the General Assembly of the United Nations has entrusted to us: the finalization and adoption of a Convention for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

I understand that the Committee of the Whole has completed a general review of all the draft articles of the Statute assigned to it, and has furthermore organized working groups and meetings to tackle specific articles requiring focused discussion and innovative solutions. The Drafting Committee has also conducted its work in an efficient manner, without reopening substantive discussion or altering the substance, to coordinate and refine the texts referred to it.

Delegations have also intensified consultations and meetings among themselves with a view to addressing specific issues of particular interest.

I am very pleased that all these have led to concrete results and that significant progress has been made on critical issues germane to the general acceptability of the Statute.

As you know, numerous communications from various sectors of the international community have expressed their strong support and commitment to this Conference.

We are therefore performing an extremely important task which truly enjoys the support of the world community.

GE.98-71169 (E)
ROM.98-1710

Our efforts need to be continued and there is still a lot to do on important points in the coming days. For this reason, we need to give new momentum to our work, focusing on essential issues so as to finalize the Statute of the International Criminal Court on 17 July 1998.

In order to allow the Conference to conclude in time, the results of your hard work will have to be consolidated into a coherent whole and translated into six official languages. At the same time, delegations will need sufficient time to consult with their capitals.

All this takes time and requires the concerted efforts of all of you. For this reason, we all need to follow a very tight schedule. Mr. Philippe Kirsch, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, together with all the Coordinators, is playing a central role in this regard. I have full confidence in them.

I know I can continue to rely on you and on your unfailing effort in bringing the Conference to the fruitful conclusion we are committed to attain.

(Signed) Mr. Giovanni Conso
President
Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court